CLAIMS

1. A method of verifying charges billed to a customer by a vendor, comprising:

loading a set of billing data associated with the charges into a billing verification system that is accessible by both the customer and the vendor via a distributed computer network;

facilitating customer review of the billing data via the billing verification system to identify one or more billing exceptions associated with one or more disputed charges;

generating a billing exception record in the billing verification system for each of the billing exceptions;

notifying the vendor of the availability of the billing exception records;

facilitating vendor review of and response to the billing exception records via the billing verification system;

generating a billing exception response record for each of the vendor responses; and

notifying the customer of the availability of the vendor response records.

2. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, wherein:

the vendor provides the set of billing data in the form of an electronic data file; and

the set of billing data is loaded into the billing verification system from the electronic data file.

3. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, wherein:

the vendor provides the set of billing data in the form of a hardcopy bill; and

the set of billing data is loaded into the billing verification system by an operator that manually enters the billing data from the hardcopy bill.

4. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, wherein the set of billing data represents one or more invoices from the vendor.

5. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 5, wherein the disputed charges consist of one or more line items selected from the vendor invoices.

6. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 5, wherein the disputed charges consist of all line items selected from one or more of the vendor invoices.

7. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, wherein each of the vendor responses corresponds to an action selected from the group consisting of:
    allowing the billing exception;
    disallowing the billing exception; and
    partially allowing the billing exception.

8. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 7, wherein the partial allowance of the billing exception includes identifying a partially allowed dollar value.

9. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, further comprising:
    incorporating customer comments in the billing exception record.

10. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, further comprising:

attaching customer supporting electronic documentation to the billing exception record.

11. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, further comprising:

incorporating vendor comments in the billing exception response record.

12. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, further comprising:

attaching vendor supporting electronic documentation to the billing exception response record.

13. A method of verifying vendor charges billed to a customer by a vendor as in claim 1, further comprising:

automatically generating a credit for an allowed billing exception dollar value against a vendor account in a customer accounts payable system.

14. A method of verifying repair facility charges billed to an equipment owner by a repair agent, comprising:

loading a set of repair billing data associated with the repair charges into a computer-based billing verification system that is accessible to both the equipment owner and the repair agent via a distributed computer network;

facilitating equipment owner review of the repair billing data via the billing verification system to identify one or more billing exceptions associated with one or more disputed repair charges;

generating a billing exception record in the billing verification system for each of the billing exceptions;

notifying the repair agent of the billing exceptions;

facilitating repair agent review of and response to the